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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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EXCISIONS MADE AS INDICATED

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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
RUMIBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 26777

EXCISE

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. CA CHAIRMAN PHAN KHAC SUU TOLD EMBOFF MAY 24 THAT HE EXPECTED SUPPORT FROM ALL GROUPS IN ALL PARTS OF COUNTRY IN FORTHCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. HE SAID HE EXPECTED PRIME MINISTER KY TO BE HIS TOUGHEST OPPONENT "NOT BECAUSE HE IS POPULAR BUT BECAUSE HE IS SURE TO CHEAT." SUU EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT GENERAL THIEU WILL ALSO RUN AND RECEIVE CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FROM CATHOLICS. SUU CLAIMS NOT TO BE CONCERNED BY PROSPECTS OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER TRAN VAN HUONG.

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2. SUU IS NOT HAPPY WITH ARTICLE 24 OF THE ELECTORAL LAW. HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED PROVISION FOR RUN-OFF.

3. SUU SAYS THAT HE AND DR. DAN HAVE WORKED OUT A PROGRAM FOR THEIR SLATE WHICH CONSISTS PRIMARILY OF PROPOSED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS. (HE GAVE NO DETAILS WHEN ASKED FOR SPECIFICS, BUT HE IS KNOWN TO BE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT LAND REFORM.)

4. IN POLITICAL SPHERE, HE BELIEVES THAT CURRENT PROGRESS TOWARDS REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT (CA AND LOCAL ELECTIONS, FORTHCOMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS, ETC.) REPRESENTS ADEQUATE POLITICAL REFORM. ON QUESTION OF DEALING WITH COMMUNISTS, SUU DOESN'T BELIEVE THEY CAN BE INTEGRATED AS SUCH INTO SOUTH VIETNAM'S BODY POLITIC. "BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE IN CLASS STRUGGLE." SUU SAYS SOUTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS MUST BE REFORMED AND RE-INDOCTRINATED BEFORE RECONCILIATION POSSIBLE. HE DOES HOWEVER,

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FORESEE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATING WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE SOMETIME IN 1968. (IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF MAY 17, DR. DAN, SUU'S RUNNING-MATE TOOK ALMOST OPPOSITE LINE. HE SAID HE THOUGHT NORTH VIETNAMESE WOULD NEVER NEGOTIATE BUT THAT GVN COULD RALLY MANY SOUTH VIETNAMESE TO ITS CAUSE BY "NEGOTIATING" AT ALL LEVELS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE FROM HAMLETS ON UP.)

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SUU NOT PARTICULARLY TALKATIVE ABOUT HIS PROGRAMS DURING CONVERSATION, HE HAS IN THE PAST EMPHASIZED WHAT HE CONSIDERS OVERRIDING NEED FOR ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL REFORMS.

[redacted] DAN IS HOWEVER, A FIRM BELIEVER IN LAND REFORM AND ADVOCATES REDUCING MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE HOLDING OF RICE LAND FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL FROM 100 TO 10 HECTARES.

6. DESPITE SUU'S CLAIM THAT HE WILL RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, WE BELIEVE HIS SUPPORT IS PRIMARILY IN THE SOUTH. HE DOES NOT HAVE A STRONG FOLLOWING IN CENTRAL VIETNAM AND COULD WELL MAKE POOREST SHOWING IN THAT REGION OF ANY OF THE LEADING PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDERS.

GP-3.

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